synchronize them at the new optimal rate can take several minutes. Thus, at a data rate of 8 Mbps for an ATM cell stream, every minute that there is a delay in restoring traffic flow 480 Mb of traffic stack up or are lost.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

A1

[0009] The disadvantage of current solutions and, thus, the problem with the known methods of restoring traffic flow when a link failure occurs is the delay associated with recalculating the optimal rate and training the links at the recalculated optimal rate. In the event that any one of the links fail, then the optimal data rate for the entire group of links, which are associated with carrying the inverse multiplexed ATM data stream, have to be recalculated. The time taken to recalculate the rate and synchronize links at this new rate results in down time, and hence, a great deal of delay as a new optimal rate is calculated and the remaining functioning lines are trained at a new optimal rate. Calculation of a new optimal rate and the number links to use and to synchronize them at the new optimal rate can take several minutes. Thus, at a data rate of 8 Mbps for an ATM cell stream, every minute that there is a delay in restoring traffic flow 480 Mb of traffic stack up or are lost.